

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



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UPPER COOK INLET COMMERCIAL FISHING ANNOUNCEMENT No. 5
EMERGENCY ORDER NUMBER 2S-05-12

Upper Cook Inlet Commercial Fishing Announcement No. 5 closes set gillnetting in the Kasilof Section of the Upper Subdistrict of Upper Cook Inlet on Monday, July 2, 2012 from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The Kasilof River cumulative sockeye salmon passage estimate through midnight on June 30, 2012 is approximately 56,000 fish. This is the second lowest estimated passage through this date in the past 10 years and is approximately 30% lower than the average cumulative escapement of 79,000 fish through June 30 based on escapement estimates from the previous 10 years. More importantly, this is the only year in that time frame where no harvest has occurred on this stock from set gillnets in the Kasilof Section. Kasilof Section set gillnet harvests have averaged 140,000 sockeye salmon per year from June fishing periods during the previous 10 years. Based on the current escapement level in the Kasilof River, the OEG of 160,000 to 390,000 fish is not projected to be exceeded, even with no commercial harvest from the Kasilof Section set gillnet fishery thus far in 2012. Therefore, based on a much weaker than expected run of Kasilof River sockeye salmon to date, the fishing period scheduled for Monday, July 2, will be closed to set gillnetting in the Kasilof Section. This fishery will reopen as soon as sockeye salmon escapement levels reach a point where fishing is needed to slow the rate of escapement to keep final escapement projections within the OEG for this system.